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Department of Transportation

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

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Inquiries Regarding Graduated Commercial Driver's Licensing; Qualifications, Testing and Licensing Standards

#### 16 GRADUATED CDL QUESTIONS

1. Please indicate your primary occupation from the following list.- **Motor vehicle administrator (State driver's license)**
2. Do you think a graduated commercial driver's license (GCDL) is needed? **No I do not**
3. Should issuance of a GCDL be linked to enrollment in a commercial driving training program? **No**
4. Should the curricula of a commercial driver training program meet widely-endorsed standards for a student to be eligible to receive a GCDL while in training? **Yes**
5. Approximately how many months/years of entry level training and experience should new drivers receive before "graduating" to an unrestricted CDL? **3 months**
6. Should an applicant's past driving record be considered in issuing a GCDL? **Yes**
7. How many of each of the following types of motor vehicle accidents and convictions within the past 12 months should cause an applicant to be denied a GCDL?
  - Passenger car or light truck motor vehicle accidents--- **2**
  - Traffic violations and citations--- **2**
  - DUI/DWI convictions--- **1**
  - Controlled substances convictions--- **1**
  - Reckless driving convictions--- **1**
  - Other convictions for motor vehicle traffic control violations--- **2**
8. Should penalties for drivers holding a GCDL, who have at-fault accidents or moving violations, be more severe than those for drivers with an unrestricted CDL? **Yes**
9. How many months/years of passenger car or light truck driving experience should an applicant have before being issued a GCDL? **3 Years**
10. Which of the following restrictions should apply to entry level drivers operating under a GCDL?
  - Reduced hours of service---**No**
  - Limitations on equipment type (e.g., doubles/triples, tank vehicles, motor coaches, etc.)--- **Yes**
  - Limitations of types of cargo (e.g., hazardous materials, livestock, liquids, etc.)--- **Yes**
  - Limitations on weather and visibility conditions (e.g., ice, snow, fog, night driving)--- **No**
  - Limitations on geography or terrain features (e.g., mountains)--- **No**
  - Limitations on distance or types of highways (e.g., miles per day, interstate highways, etc.)--- **No**

11. Should a fully licensed CDL driver be required to accompany and observe a driver with a GCDL? Yes  
If yes, for how many weeks/months/years? **3 months**
12. What is the minimum age at which an applicant should be eligible to receive a Graduated CDL? **19**
13. Assuming that training requirements are met, what is the minimum age at which the holder of a graduated CDL should be eligible to receive a Graduated CDL? **21**
14. How much testing (knowledge and road test) should be given to GCDL holders prior to issuing an unrestricted CDL?
  - Single test to “graduate” to an unrestricted CDL--- **Yes**
  - Periodically while holding a GCDL until training is complete--- **No**
  - Initial test plus re-test at 1 year after receiving initial GCDL--- **No**
15. What other factors do you feel must be addressed in the implementation of a graduated CDL program?  
**The length of the GCDL and the training required**
16. What costs would you or your organization anticipate incurring if a GCDL program is implemented?  
**Unknown until exact specifications of GCDL are known**